

One Defends Him

A Few Rice Students Protest CIA Recruiter

By JIM MELTON
Post Reporter

A dozen students plopped down in the Rice Memorial Center Thursday in protest of a Central Intelligence Agency recruiter who was seeking new faces for the U.S.'s hush-hush global spy network.

One Rice student was protesting the protesters and defending the CIA's role in foreign affairs.

Red-bearded Sandy Mueller, 21, who identified himself as the protest leader, said his group does not agree with CIA interference in the affairs of other nations.

Mueller, a senior history and German major, alleged the CIA is not upholding democracy but contributing to its downfall.

BARI WATKINS, a 20-year-old redheaded coed, cited the Bay of Pigs invasion as an example of CIA interference.

Miss Watkins, wearing a green military fatigue jacket with a "ban-the-bomb" button, reported that the protesters at first encouraged as many students as possible to see the recruiter, so that the recruiting process would be slowed.

"But it occurred to us that—Hey! — it was our our money they were spending and we weren't sure we wanted the CIA to know about us," she added.

THE CIA, like other government agencies, routinely checks the backgrounds of prospective employees.

Daniel Marsh, 19, a sophomore majoring in behavioral science, carried a sign defending the CIA. His father is a businessman in Tokyo.

"From my experience abroad and seeing foreign countries," he said, "I would say that the CIA generally performing functions that support democracy and in support of America in general."

The Rice director of placement, John B. Evans, said

the CIA recruits every year on campus, "like other companies, organizations and government agencies." He said the CIA does not furnish his

office with figures on how many Rice students ultimately join the top-secret agency.

WILLIAM B. WOOD, the CIA recruiter whose office is

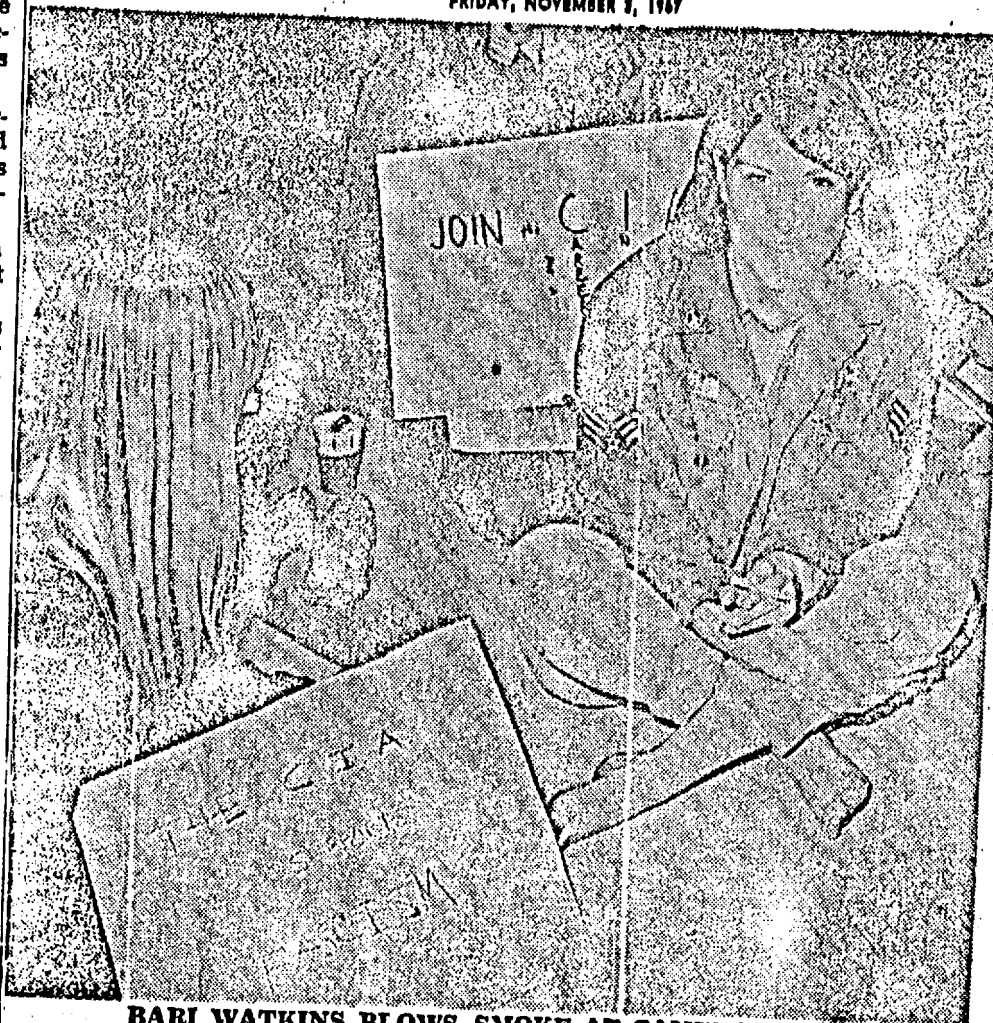
in Austin's Federal Building, would not discuss the protesters three floors below. He described himself as the southwest personnel representative of the CIA.

Wood said his activities are part of a 10-year-old nationwide program to recruit college students and "attempt to make known on campus what we have in the way of career opportunities."

Recruiting was over about 4:30 PM Thursday. Evans said from 20 to 30 students were interviewed.

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BARI WATKINS BLOWS SMOKE AT CAMERAMAN
Long-Tressed Rice Student Holds Sign Knocking CIA

—Post Photos by Bill Thompson